

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were presented.

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-24, 26-32 and 34-39 were rejected.

Claims 2, 17, 25 and 33 were objected to.

In this amendment, claims 1, 5-6, 12, 17, 20, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33-34, 36 and 39 are amended. Claims 1, 9, 16, 24 and 32 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-24, 26-32, 34-39 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Hui (U.S. 6,654,417 B1) in view of Hurst (U.S. 6,763,067) and further in view of Werner (U.S. 6,668,088).

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 17, 25 and 33 were objected to only as dependent on a rejected base claim, and would be allowable to include all of the limitations of the base claim. While by no means acknowledging that the Examiner's rejection had merit, claim 2 is nevertheless amended to include the limitations of its base claim, and thus is allowable.

In addition, claims 17, 25 and 33 as amended are allowable under the same rationale.

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-24, 26-32 and 34-39 depend upon claims 2, 17, 25 or 33, and thus also are deemed to be allowable for reason of their dependency and for other patentably distinguishable features recited therein.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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